

# **I-35 Commuter Rail**

## **Johnson County, Kansas/Kansas City, Missouri**

(November 2002)

### **Description**

Johnson County, Kansas, is proposing to implement a five-station, 23-mile Commuter Rail line extending from downtown Kansas City, Missouri, southwest to Olathe, Kansas, in Johnson County. The proposed commuter rail project would parallel I-35, the major highway connecting Kansas City with Olathe, and would share existing Burlington Northern and Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad track (except for the line's northernmost mile segment, which would require either new track or existing Kansas City Terminal Railway trackage). Park and ride facilities are being planned for each proposed station. The commuter rail line will terminate in Kansas City at its historic Union Station. Ridership estimates for the I-35 commuter rail project range from 1,400 to 3,800 trips per day; these estimates will be refined during subsequent phases of project development.

The project is estimated to cost \$30.9 million dollars, with a proposed Section 5309 New Starts share of \$24.8 million. Sponsors are reviewing the project scope and schedule, which may result in the New Starts share increasing. Because the proposed New Starts share is less than \$25 million, the project is exempt from the New Starts criteria, and is thus not subject to FTA's evaluation and rating (49 USC 5309(e)(8)(A)).

<b>Summary Description</b>	
<b>Proposed Project:</b>	Commuter Rail 23 Miles, 5 Stations
<b>Total Capital Cost (\$1997):</b>	\$30.9 Million
<b>Section 5309 New Starts Share (\$1997):</b>	\$24.8 Million (80%)
<b>Annual Operating Cost (\$1997):</b>	\$4.2 Million
<b>Ridership Forecast:</b>	1,400-3,800 Average Weekday Boardings

### **Status**

Johnson County initiated a Major Investment Study on the I-35 corridor in early 1996. The MIS resulted in the selection of commuter rail as the Locally Preferred Alternative in August 1998. The LPA was adopted in the financially constrained long range transportation plan in February 1999. FTA approved Johnson County's request to enter into Preliminary Engineering (PE) in July 1999. An Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project will be undertaken as part of the PE effort. The EA is anticipated for completion by the end of 2003. The grantee is negotiating use agreements with the railroads.

TEA-21 Section 3030(a)(32) authorizes the "Kansas City I-35 Commuter Rail" project for Final Design and construction. Through FY 2002, Congress has appropriated \$4.45 million in Section 5309 New Starts funds for the project.

**Local Financial Commitment****Proposed Non-Section 5309 Share of Total Project Costs: 20%**

<b>Locally Proposed Financing Plan</b>		
<b><u>Proposed Source of Funds</u></b>	<b><u>Total Funding (\$million)</u></b>	<b><u>Percent of Total</u></b>
<b>Federal:</b> Section 5309	\$24.8	80.0 %
<b>Local:</b>	\$6.2	20.0 %
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$30.9</b>	100.0 %

**NOTE:** Funding proposal reflects assumptions made by project sponsors, and are not DOT or FTA assumptions.  
Total may not add due to rounding.

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